

LESSLEY
Strand Orientation Alignment In
Strand Coating Systems And Methods"
Atty. Docket No. 14120

Appl. No. 10/623,294
Confirm. No. 4116
Examiner B. Lamb
Art Unit 1762

REMARKS

Request For Reconsideration, Claim Status

The non-final Office action mailed on 17 September 2007 has been considered carefully. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the amendments above and discussion below.

The specification has been amended grammatically and idiomatically, including the addition of paragraph numbers. No new matter has been added. Marked-up and Substitute specifications are attached.

Claims 14, 17-27, 29-31 and 33-34 are pending.

Rejection Under 35 USC 112, Second Paragraph

Rejection Summary

Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph for lack of antecedent basis and alleged failure to further limit the claim from which it depends.

Claim 17, previously dependent from Claim 34, has been amended to depend from Claim 14, which provides an antecedent basis for the "... strand axial orientation aligning member." Amended Claim 17 further limits Claim 14. Kindly withdraw the objection to Claim 17.

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Arguments re: Mullins

Rejection Summary

Claims 14, 20 and 33 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) for anticipation by U.S. Patent No. 4,544,579 (Mullins).

Discussion of Claim 14

Claim 14 has been amended to include the limitations of dependent claims 20 and 21. Mullins fails to disclose a

... strand coating system, comprising:
an adhesive dispensing device having an adhesive dispensing orifice;
a strand guide member, the strand guide member includes a strand guide not aligned with the adhesive dispensing orifice and the strand axial orientation aligning member;
a strand axial orientation aligning member coupled to the adhesive dispensing device,
the strand axial orientation aligning member positioned in substantial alignment with the adhesive dispensing orifice, the strand axial orientation aligning member disposed between the strand guide member and the adhesive dispensing orifice,
the strand axial orientation aligning member is a pin having an axis extending substantially transverse to an axis along which strand is drawn past the adhesive dispensing device,
the strand axial orientation aligning member is a pin having a recessed side portion.

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Claim 21 is not subject to the rejection based on Mullins. Mullins fails to disclose, among other limitations of Claim 14, a "... strand guide member includes a strand guide not aligned with the adhesive dispensing orifice and the strand axial orientation aligning member..." and a strand axial orientation aligning member configured as a "... pin having a recessed side portion." Claim 14 amended to include the limitations of dependent Claims 20 and 21 is now patentably distinguished over Mullins.

Arguments re: Mullins & Takahashi

Rejection Summary

Claims 18-19 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,544,579 (Mullins) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,250,207 (Takahashi).

Discussion

Claims 18 and 19 depend from Claim 14. Claim 14 however has been amended to include the limitations of dependent Claim 21, which is not susceptible to the rejection based on Mullins and Takahashi. Thus Claims 18-19 are patentably distinguished over Mullins and Takahashi.

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Arguments re: Bolyard & Kwok

Rejection Summary

Claims 14 and 21 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2002/0088392 (Bolyard) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,077,375 (Kwok).

Discussion

Commonly owned patents/applications Under 102(e) are not prior art under 103(c). See, Guidelines Concerning the Implementation of Changes to 35 USC 102(g) and 103(c) and the Interpretation of the Term "Original Application" in the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999. Official Gazette, 11 April 2000.

Bolyard is prior art under 35 USC 102(e) since the corresponding patent (6,613,146) issued (on 2 September 2003) after the filing date (28 July 2003) of the instant application. Bolyard and the instant application were at the time of filing, and remain, commonly assigned to Illinois Tool Works, Inc. Thus Bolyard is not prior under 35 USC 103(c). Kindly withdraw the rejections of Claims 14 and 21 based upon Bolyard.

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Discussion of Allowed and Allowable Claims

Claims 22-27, 29-31 and 34 are allowed.

Prayer For Relief

In view of the discussion and any amendments above, it is submitted that all pending claims of the present application are in condition for allowance. Kindly withdraw any rejections and objections thereto and allow the claims of the present application to issue as a United States Patent without delay.

Respectfully submitted,



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